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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Give ear, O Shepherd, You who have led Your people time and again through hardship and calamity. You who sit enthroned in the heavens, stir up Your might and come save Your people suffering at the hands of their enemies.

Restore the people of Ukraine, O God of hosts. Let Your face shine upon them in the darkness of their despair that they may be saved from the onslaught of terror being inflicted upon them.

Feed them no more with the bread of their tears. Nourish them no more with the scorn of their enemies. But extend Your hand of favor upon them that their lives would be preserved.

Turn Your eyes on them and regard their faithfulness. Let Your hand rest upon those who remain devoted to You.

Then may all experience the immeasurable strength of Your abiding presence and find hope.

In the power of Your name we offer our prayers.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PERLMUTTER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SICK AND TIRED

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I am sick and tired of standing up here to say I am sick and tired. I am tired of reminding my colleagues that we have a gun violence epidemic in this country outside of mass shootings.

We hold moments of silence. We stand up, we sit down, but we do nothing. The mass shooting carried out by a racist white supremacist in Buffalo last weekend was absolutely horrible. I am truly sorry for the victims' families and for the whole community.

But also know, this weekend in Chicago 33 people were shot and five died, and we did nothing. I care both about the people who are killed by guns, whether they are shot alone in a park or next to their neighbors in a supermarket. I see a lot of colleagues expressing outrage about the Buffalo shooting, but outrage means nothing until we start legislating or investing in solutions.

I do not care what the Senate will or won't pass. Let them go on record and show the American people whether they care about their safety or not. Just who and how many have to die before we take action?

PELTON VIP MEMBERSHIPS

(Mr. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, it is an open secret that Americans are facing serious challenges today. Many of these challenges are Washington-inflicted caused by Democrats' incompetence and radicalism. Absolute chaos on the southern border, unsafe streets, record-high gas prices, rising inflation, a broken supply chain, an ongoing labor shortage, a failing education system, and, of course, a baby formula shortage they knew about for more than a year.

Will this Congress be remembered as the Congress that addressed these issues? Probably not. Instead, this Congress will go down in history as the out-of-touch Congress.

This week, as families scramble to find baby formula, Speaker PELOSI's House decided to add special new perks for Washington lawmakers and staff. One of those perks was a VIP membership to Peloton gyms; paid for by hard-working American taxpayers. What is next, free Jeni's ice cream?

You may be asking: What is Peloton? It is a bike that costs about \$2,000. Not only that, each month you pay a monthly subscription fee to ride your \$2,000 bike. Best of all, it is stationary. They charge you about \$300 to set it up. It is a \$2,000 bike that you pay to use and pay to set up that doesn't go anywhere. What a business.

Speaker PELOSI decided to give everyone in Congress a Peloton gym membership; more specifically, the premier employee benefits package. You know what, she did it without any debate or discussion with any Republicans.

First, they appoint a political committee and don't allow the Republicans to name anybody. Now they decide to use your taxpayer money and never talked to the other side. We were left in the dark. Congress, meaning taxpayers, will pay Peloton \$10,000 up front and \$10 per month per person. In all, this contract could cost taxpayers

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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an extra \$100,000 or more per month. I guess New York City isn't the only place Speaker PELOSI went on a spending spree last week.

As the sixth richest Member of Congress, the Speaker might not be worried about this costly new program, but American families should sweat it. It comes as families are getting crushed by the worst inflation in 40 years. It is insane.

It is also redundant. Members and staff already have access to a congressional gym for a membership fee. The Peloton perk did not replace it. Instead, it duplicates it.

I would like to see any Democrat go to their district, my district, anyone else's district and defend this; look people straight in the face. I will tell you what is happening in our district, there are parents who are going to eight or nine stores looking for baby formula, paying for gas that you can barely afford.

Instead of trying to help these struggling families, Democrats are plundering their pocketbooks to pay for Pelosi's Peloton membership.

You can't image a more out-of-touch party. This isn't just an exception; it is the rule in the Democratic conference. Let me tell you something, Mr. Speaker. I actually heard your conference chair, HAKEEM JEFFRIES, say—talking about the Democrat agenda and saying about gas prices: "That issue hasn't come up in our conference." It has come up in every single American's kitchen table, but not in the Democratic conference.

Mr. Speaker, we also heard a Democrat Member, Congresswoman PORTER, who said: "We aren't seeing inflation in the polls." I am not sure what polls they are taking that they think that Peloton for Members and staff is going to solve this problem.

In the Democratic conference nobody talks about gas prices because they haven't heard about it. The polling says inflation doesn't come up. Yet, as we speak, Democrats are pushing for more reckless spending and higher taxes that will only make this problem worse.

Mr. Speaker, I remember sitting on this floor, talking in this mike, warning the majority party, the Democrats, if they went through with the reckless spending of almost \$2 trillion that inflation would come. The sad part, Mr. Speaker, is that it wasn't just the Republicans warning you, it was Democrats; those that had worked in the Obama administration and the Biden administration.

Lo and behold, what have we found, Mr. Speaker? Inflation. They first want to tell America, no, it is just temporary. No, it is not. We now have the former ex-Fed chair saying you are going to get stagflation, just like in the 1970s. Do you remember in the late 1970s when you couldn't get gas on an even day if your license plate ended in an odd number? Now you don't know if you can afford it when you pull up.

You don't know if your credit card goes high enough. You don't know if you have enough money to go. You are filling it up because you are trying to drive to find baby formula that the administration knew about for a year and did nothing about.

We have watched a Congress be so partisan. We have watched a Washington with one-party rule and only care about one person—themselves. Their first bill was about changing election law so they could dictate who wins. Then when the polls were bad and they were going to lose, they appointed a political committee to go after their political opponents.

That is all going to change in 174 days from now. That focus is going to be on you, the American people. It is not going to be more Pelotons for those in Congress. It is not going to be wasting your taxpayer money. It is not going to be appointing committees and not allowing the other side just to go after your political opponents. It is going to be focusing on America.

Do you know what the rise in gas prices with this one-party rule has done to America? It is costing every family more than \$2,000. The rising prices are costing them an extra \$5,000. An open border is now costing the lives of Americans.

Fentanyl is the number one cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 45. I don't know how that doesn't show up on their polls. Now what do they want to do? They want to lift title 42. It is not just Republicans warning them, it is Democrats, who sat as Secretaries of Homeland Security, warned them not to do it.

I don't know if they think it will take the attention away from no baby formula, can't afford gas, inflation continuing to rise; but they think they are doing all right.

We should reward staff and get them a Peloton membership. Don't just get them any membership, get them the VIP. They think it doesn't cost you anything because they take it to the American taxpayer, the hardworking taxpayer, to spend more of your money. Just like they did with \$2 trillion. Just like they wanted to do more with their Build Back Better.

Have they not learned enough? If you go to their conferences, I am not sure what they talk about. They say they don't bring up the gas price. They say inflation doesn't show up in the polls. They are probably looking at more perks and spending more tax dollars. That day is ending soon and a new Congress with a focus on the American people and the future of America is soon to come.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEYER). Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair, please.

OPIOID CRISIS

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my greatest concern and the urgency to act now to address our Nation's opioid crisis and drug overdoses.

At the height of the pandemic in 2020 we saw record numbers of overdoses across the country, and in Michigan we saw even more alarming rates. In 2020, the opioid crisis claimed the loved ones of over 2,400 Michiganders and communities like Ecorse, Michigan, in the 13th District, has seen the highest overdose rates in our State.

The physical and mental health of our communities are under siege. We must do more and act with urgency to save lives. Accessibility to preventive treatments and resources for harm reduction is critical in keeping our communities safe.

Also, we must not forget the importance of holding for-profit Big Pharma companies accountable in fueling this epidemic through the sale of higher doses of opioids to our communities. We must make the bold action to remove the stigma as well of this crisis, create equitable treatment plans, and expand access to harm reduction tools for those who need help.

I applaud the administration for understanding the importance of this issue, but our communities can't wait another year for a grant or another study. We must hold the corporate profiteers accountable and get the boots on the ground to address this crisis.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING THE ROANOKER RESTAURANT

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Roanoker Restaurant, an establishment so iconic it carries its city's namesake.

Opened in 1941 by Craft Warren, this Roanoke staple has served as a gathering place for generations. For nearly 81 years, The Roanoker provided folks across the Star City a place to come together over a delicious, home-cooked meal.

Its current owner, Butch Craft, began working at the restaurant more than 52 years ago before eventually taking over the business.

Over the course of its storied history, the restaurant has moved throughout Roanoke before making its way to its current and, unfortunately, final home on Colonial Avenue in 1982.

This week, the entire Star City was saddened to learn that, after more than eight decades in business, The Roanoker will be closing its doors at the end of the month.

One resident said it best: It is going to be greatly missed, no doubt about it. It is going to be so missed.